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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 258

HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD  
HELENA, MONTANA

NOVEMBER, 1964

## Employment Security Highlights, Fiscal 1964

The following excerpt from the Commission's 28th Annual Report compares selected employment service and unemployment insurance activities for Fiscal 1964 with Fiscal 1963 . . .

### NEW JOBSEEKERS REGISTERED:

	Fiscal 1964	Fiscal 1963
Total.....	49,967	53,371
Veterans.....	8,327	9,991
Female.....	17,819	18,213
Physically Handicapped.....	3,125	3,945

### JOB PLACEMENTS:

	Fiscal 1964	Fiscal 1963
Total.....	66,737	69,033
Non-Agricultural.....	32,415	35,820
Agricultural.....	34,322	33,213

### UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS RECEIVED:

	Fiscal 1964	Fiscal 1963
Initial Claims—Montana.....	31,661	30,598
Continued Claims—Montana.....	269,869	247,952
Average Number of Weekly Payments.....	5,526	5,153
Number Who Received 1st Benefit Check.....	19,917	19,256
Number Who Received Maximum Weeks.....	5,250	5,058
Interstate as Liabile State—Total Claims.....	36,699	31,388

### UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS MADE:

	Fiscal 1964	Fiscal 1963
Number—Montana.....	237,599	221,576
Amount—Montana.....	\$ 7,412,796	\$ 6,845,590
Weekly Average Benefit Amount.....	\$ 31.20	\$ 30.90

GROSS WAGES PAID IN COVERED EMPLOYMENT.....\$537,249,407 \$533,769,602

TAXABLE WAGES ON WHICH UCC TAX PAID.....\$339,901,225 \$345,741,270

NET TAXES PAID BY EMPLOYERS.....\$ 5,166,406 \$ 5,357,812

UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVES JUNE 30.....\$ 18,644,971 \$ 20,065,334

## LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Sept. 1964	Aug. 1964	Sept. 1963	Sept. 1964	Aug. 1964	Sept. 1963	Sept. 1964	Aug. 1964	Sept. 1963	Sept. 1964	Aug. 1964	Sept. 1963	Sept. 1964	Aug. 1964	Sept. 1963
All Manufacturing.....	5.3	4.9	5.9	4.0	4.3	5.2	7.7	5.3	7.8	5.1	3.1	5.2	1.3	.7	1.4
Durable Goods.....	6.2	5.2	7.0	4.5	4.4	6.2	8.7	6.1	9.1	6.3	3.6	6.3	1.0	.8	1.3
Primary Metal.....	8.2	4.8	4.8	2.7	3.0	1.3	7.0	7.2	7.9	6.2	2.6	2.3	*	.1	3.2
Nondurable Goods.....	3.6	4.5	3.6	3.1	4.0	3.3	5.8	3.7	5.2	2.9	2.2	2.9	1.8	.7	1.6
All Mining.....	5.6	8.7	6.6	3.2	5.2	4.0	8.5	7.0	8.8	6.0	4.2	5.6	.9	1.0	1.4
Metal Mining.....	6.1	7.3	5.5	2.9	2.6	2.2	9.1	6.2	7.5	6.4	3.4	3.9	.6	.5	1.7

\*Less than .05

## Along the Hiring Line —

## Field Summary October 1

**ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg**—(170 jobseekers, 54 new, 90 men, 30 women). Employment directions showed little change from last month with exception of completion of some contraction projects. Good trends prevailed in most industry groups but expected smelter layoffs next few months could cause some concern.

**BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup**—(1,609 jobseekers, 601 new, 934 men, 675 women). Most industry segments enjoyed high levels of activity during October with but few changes. Construction, trade and service, and agriculture all showed healthy employment patterns. Some decline noted in manufacturing with end of some food processing activities. Sugar beet refining continues on good schedule.

**BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident**—(243 jobseekers, 204 new, 106 men, 137 women). Seasonally active trends in most industry groups made for an extremely active employment picture during October. Construction, logging, and sawmill operations at good force with continuing demand for timber fallers. Labor turnover in main street occupations below former years.

**BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall**—(621 jobseekers, 276 new, 362 men, 259 women). New work applications and total jobseekers down from year ago due chiefly to increased hiring at metal mines and on highway construction projects. Good trends also being maintained in other industry groups. Worker shortages exist in skilled slaughter house occupations.

**CUT BANK**—(140 jobseekers, 40 new, 79 men, 61 women). Overall economic picture looks good through November if present trends hold and favorable weather continues. Most skilled workmen employed on current construction projects. Supply of transient labor abating. Farm labor demand down but still fairly good.

**DILLON**—(85 jobseekers, 69 new, 53 men, 32 women). Building construction at fairly good pace with some projects nearing completion. Upswing noted in demand for trade industry workers. Good farm labor demand with worker supply adequate.

**GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim**—(122 jobseekers, 52 new, 39 men, 23 women). Plans for phasing out air base had little immediate effect on

## MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Oct. 64	Sept. 64	Oct. 63	Sept. 64 to Oct. 64	Oct. 63 to Oct. 64
Civilian Work Force	248.2	257.6	254.7	9.4	6.5
Total Employment	240.8	250.8	247.0	10.0	6.2
Total Non-agricultural Employment	203.6	215.6	209.6	7.0	1.0
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	179.0	180.9	179.7	1.9	.7
Total Agricultural Employment	32.2	35.2	37.4	3.0	5.2
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	0	0.0	.2
Total Unemployment	7.2	6.6	7.7	.6	1.5
Percent Unemployed	2.9	2.6	3.0		
U. S. Unemployment Rate	NA	4.5	4.9		
*Less Than 50					

local economy. Construction work on some facilities there still continued. Outside work on new meat packing plant completed allowing interior work to progress through the winter months.

**GLENDALE, Circle, Wibaux**—(113 jobseekers, 66 new, 64 men, 49 women). Ideal weather during October allowed construction and other outdoor work to continue at good clip. All area road projects near completion with only fencing and other finish details yet to be done. Idled workers either found other local work or moved on to other areas. New shopping center scheduled for November opening.

**GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford**—(962 jobseekers, 411 new, 470 men, 492 women). Employment directions kept on a steady course during October. The main upswing occurred in trade establishments. Service industries held to stable trends with little new activity. Construction payrolls reached peak for season and will now start adjusting downward in line with traditional patterns.

**HAMILTON, Stevensville**—(99 jobseekers, 51 new, 46 men, 53 women). A seasonally active labor market found good trends in logging, sawmills, and agriculture. Some shortages of logging occupations developed. One new sawmill under construction. Trade and service volume boosted by advent of hunting season.

**HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem**—(158 jobseekers, 81 new, 111 men, 47 women). Decline in job placements from last year attributed to lack of new public work programs. Generally optimistic employment trends should continue locally until freezing weather. No new construction start expected until next spring. Main street hiring for holiday season in progress.

**HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Town-**

**send, White Sulphur Springs**—(285 jobseekers, 127 new, 133 men, 152 women). Labor demand stayed on a steady course during October. Construction about 50% above last year. Hiring continued throughout the month as contractors rushed outside work toward completion. Worker demand in trade industries below last year when opening of new shopping center created good demand.

**KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish**—(453 jobseekers, 208 new, 248 men, 205 women). Continued hiring in construction and the Christmas tree harvest highlighted October labor market activities. Idled workers from completed highway project moved on to another area. Government hiring receded as flood connected work ended. Shutdown of one sawmill and elimination of night shift at another cause some layoffs in manufacturing. Trade and service volume holds to fairly good seasonal levels.

**LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett**—(99 jobseekers, 73 new, 44 men, 55 women). Seasonal declines becoming more evident in industry and agriculture with the passing of the good employment months. Shortages of farm labor created some problems during October. Opening of new rest home made twelve jobs. Holiday buying season should create more employment in trade and service units.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber**—(143 jobseekers, 42 new, 65 men, 78 women). Building and highway construction, and logging and sawmill operations kept on steady schedules during October. Timber fallers were in short supply at intervals. Heavy snow cut tourist traffic into Yellowstone Park reducing labor demand.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry**—(155 jobseekers, 67 new, 45 men, 110 women). Employ-

## NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	151.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	157.3	153.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	173.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	179.0*			

\*Preliminary Estimate

All percentages are based on the basis of more complete report. Industry detail for the period Jan. 1963 to date will be included in a future supplement to this publication.

## Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary October 1

ject moved on to another area. Government in most industry groups remained stable during October. Good weather kept outdoor work on good schedule. Main street hiring in trade and service firms not too active. Opening of several new units at shopping center will create 30 new jobs early December.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—(949 jobseekers, 384 new, 548 men, 401 women). Construction hiring nearly doubled from last year with less worker demand noted in trade and manufacturing industries. Some worker shortages developed during the month including mill hands, carpenters, and woods workers. Holiday buying season should generate more employment activity in trade and service next two months.

**POLSON**—(88 jobseekers, 36 new, 59 men, 29 women). Economic activity below last year due to lack of major construction, industrial expansion, or federal projects in area at present. Most lumber mills still maintaining high employment levels. Potato and Christmas tree harvest now completed.

**SHELBY**—(61 jobseekers, 51 new, 44 men, 17 women). Work applications down from last month and last year as good weather kept employment high in most industries. Job hires, however, show decline from last year with biggest drop in trade and stock yard facilities. Farm labor demand diminished.

**SIDNEY**—(73 jobseekers, 42 new, 41 men, 32 women). Employment trends holding up fairly well but job opportunities reduced by automation at sugar refinery and fewer construction projects this year. Fairly stable trends in trade, service, and oil field operations.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—(54 jobseekers, 30 new, 36 men, 18 women). Idled construction and forest service workers chiefly responsible for 14% increase in jobseeker count from last month. Logging and sawmill work continued in good force as logs were being stockpiled for winter. Influx of newcomers noted in area attracted by possibility of start of Libby Dam.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—(107 jobseekers, 67 new, 77 men, 30 women). Seasonal changes in employment most noticeable in construction and trade and service units. Housing projects at Poplar and Wolf Point completed. Seasonal workers furloughed from farm implement firms, elevators, and roadside drive-ins. Oil fields active with an average of 4 to 5 rigs drilling during October.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 836 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,217 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Oct. 1964 (2)	Sept. 1964 (3)	Oct. 1963	Sept. '64 to Oct. '64	Oct. '63 Against Oct. '61
<b>NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>179,000</b>	<b>180,900</b>	<b>179,700</b>	<b>-1,900</b>	<b>— 700</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>23,800</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>
Durable goods	14,300	14,600	13,900	-300	400
Lumber and timber products	9,200	9,500	9,000	-300	200
Primary metals	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Other (4)	1,800	1,800	1,800	00	00
Nondurable goods	9,500	8,400	9,100	1,100	400
Food and kindred products	5,900	4,700	5,500	1,200	400
Printing and publishing	1,600	1,700	1,700	-100	— 100
Petroleum refining	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Other (5)	800	800	700	00	100
<b>Mining</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>600</b>
Metal mining	4,900	4,900	4,000	00	900
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,800	1,800	2,100	00	- 300
<b>Contract Construction</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-2,700</b>
Contractors, building construction	4,000	4,200	4,900	-200	— 900
Contractors, other than building	3,900	4,300	5,300	-400	-1,400
Contractors, special trade	3,900	4,000	4,300	-100	— 400
<b>Transportation and utilities</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>100</b>
Interstate railroads	7,700	7,900	8,000	-200	— 300
Transportation except railroads	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Utilities including communication	6,100	6,100	5,800	00	300
<b>Trade</b>	<b>41,100</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>41,700</b>	<b>-1,500</b>	<b>— 600</b>
Wholesale trade	8,300	8,500	8,700	-200	— 400
Retail trade	32,800	34,100	33,000	-1,300	— 200
General merchandise and apparel	6,200	6,600	6,200	-400	00
Food stores	5,400	5,400	5,300	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments	8,700	9,300	8,300	-600	400
Automotive and filling stations	6,500	6,700	6,900	-200	— 400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,100	6,300	-100	— 300
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Services and miscellaneous</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>25,100</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>200</b>
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,000	3,600	2,900	-600	100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Other (6)	19,200	19,400	19,100	-200	100
<b>Government</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>44,900</b>	<b>44,700</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>700</b>
Federal	11,100	11,800	12,100	-700	-1,000
State and local	34,300	33,100	32,600	1,200	1,700
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County)</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>— 200</b>
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,100	00	100
Contract construction	2,400	2,200	2,700	200	— 300
Transportation and utilities	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,500	5,600	5,600	-100	— 100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,700	3,700	-100	— 100
Government	4,200	4,200	4,000	00	200
<b>Billings Area (Yellowstone County)</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,600</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>500</b>
Manufacturing	3,600	3,400	3,300	200	300
Contract construction	2,100	2,100	2,300	00	— 200
Transportation and utilities	2,700	2,700	2,700	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,600	7,600	7,500	00	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,600	4,700	4,300	-100	300
Government	3,700	3,700	3,700	00	00

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN OCTOBER 1964 AND OCTOBER 1963

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Oct. 1964		Oct. 1963		Oct. 1964		Oct. 1963		Oct. 1964				Oct. 1963				Wk. 11-6	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	54	5	72	11	170	20	210	21	76	304	380	45	72	340	412	70	121	134
Billings	601	99	726	106	1,609	274	1,725	268	660	458	1,118	254	648	467	1,115	280	535	575
Bozeman	204	24	252	36	243	30	298	40	204	85	289	37	221	72	293	41	118	78
Butte	276	43	371	57	621	119	852	138	100	14	114	15	203	8	211	47	350	426
Cut Bank	40	6	52	11	140	25	155	37	34	45	79	40	119	45	164	61	60	62
Dillon	69	22	66	17	85	7	75	12	46	53	99	43	32	61	93	44	44	34
Glasgow	52	4	52	1	122	7	115	4	85	15	100	22	109	29	138	22	75	54
Glendive	66	6	83	9	113	10	118	14	41	35	76	10	105	24	129	18	20	24
Great Falls	411	66	586	106	962	194	1,743	336	306	103	409	96	296	520	816	99	518	846
Hamilton	51	7	38	5	99	8	116	12	64	251	315	17	131	288	419	41	54	68
Havre	81	8	146	45	158	40	207	51	52	54	106	17	165	66	231	86	114	132
Helena	127	20	192	22	285	46	329	64	158	47	205	69	220	66	286	81	185	219
Kalispell	208	29	249	37	453	72	494	69	236	44	280	69	539	62	601	164	326	346
Lewistown	73	8	75	15	99	8	122	28	61	61	122	20	54	75	129	35	85	98
Livingston	42	1	39	3	143	13	170	22	86	9	95	25	141	20	161	43	89	130
Miles City	67	5	97	11	155	8	147	6	84	28	112	34	81	28	109	18	60	45
Missoula	384	43	502	61	949	133	963	48	339	44	383	60	578	89	667	160	247	219
Polson	36	6	42	8	88	11	191	41	30	36	66	9	44	35	79	18	76	83
Shelby	51	14	75	15	61	12	130	26	52	36	88	27	72	21	93	21	26	38
Sidney	42	6	57	10	73	3	76	4	60	30	90	19	145	49	194	55	19	23
Thomp. Falls	30	8	34	7	54	11	61	14	50	4	54	13	67	9	76	23	40	49
Wolf Point	67	19	45	13	107	27	65	16	28	37	65	10	36	59	95	20	61	56
TOTALS	3,032	449	3,851	606	6,789	1,078	8,362	1,271	2,852	1,793	4,645	951	4,078	2,433	6,511	1,447	3,223	3,739

\*Includes 288 claims of the Fed. UC Program 289 same a year ago.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. (1) 1964	Sept. (2) 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct. (1) 1964	Sept. (2) 1964	Oct. 1963	Oct. (1) 1964	Sept. (2) 1964	Oct. 1963
All Manufacturing	109.18	116.34	105.56	39.7	41.7	40.6	2.75	2.79	2.60
Durable Goods	110.28	115.45	106.34	40.1	42.6	40.9	2.75	2.71	2.60
Primary Metals	121.75	126.48	108.00	39.4	42.3	40.3	3.09	2.99	2.68
Non-durable Goods	107.48	118.10	103.86	38.8	39.9	40.1	2.77	2.96	2.59
Food and Kindred Products	92.90	105.92	88.75	39.2	41.7	40.9	2.37	2.54	2.17
All Mining	120.12	123.01	117.27	39.0	40.2	40.3	3.08	3.06	2.91
Metal Mining	117.48	117.48	117.39	38.9	38.9	39.0	3.02	3.02	3.01
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	111.32	111.32	106.52	39.9	39.9	39.6	2.79	2.79	2.69

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING  
P. O. Box 1728  
HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL  
United States Postage  
Accounted for Under  
Act of Congress



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